

Policy Advisory Committee Charge

California Water Plan Update 2018

Preamble

The California Water Plan Update 2018 (Update 2018) Policy Advisory Committee (Policy AC) is comprised of a diverse mix of stakeholder representatives. It is convened by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) under California Water Code (Sections 10004-10013) and a statutory body governed by State meeting law ([Bagley-Keene Guide](#)). The diversity of interests represented within the Policy AC membership provides a comprehensive and collaborative forum that supports strategic integration of California's water management activities. The role of the Policy AC is to provide representative perspectives and advice to DWR in the preparation of the Water Plan. The Policy AC also assists in communicating and advancing Water Plan goals, objectives and recommendations. All members of the Policy AC serve by invitation of DWR's Director who has ultimate responsibility for all appointments to the Policy AC. DWR Deputy Director Gary Bardini is responsible for production of the California Water Plan Update and is the Executive Sponsor.

Each Water Plan Update has evolved to meet changing conditions with the goal of producing the State's strategic water plan to: meet [California Water Code requirements](#), guide State investments in water innovation and infrastructure, advance effective and integrated water management, and achieve sustainable outcomes for California's water resources. Beyond State government, elected officials, agencies, tribes, water and resource managers, businesses, academia, stakeholders, and the public are key audiences of the Water Plan.

Roles and Responsibilities

Policy AC members agree to:

- Act as a liaison to communicate information to and from their organization.
- Act in a manner that will enhance trust among fellow members.
- Contribute data/information to clarify issues and assumptions.
- Act collaboratively and seek common ground where possible.
- Attend Policy AC meetings and annual plenary meetings.
- Act in good faith.

DWR Water Plan Team agrees to:

- Provide staff support and, as needed, a professional Facilitator for the meetings.
- Collect and organize data.
- Draft text for group review.
- Provide technical support to the effort.
- Provide for the physical arrangements for the meeting.
- Provide requested information.

The Executive Sponsor agrees to:

- Provide resources for the effort.
- In consultation with other State Agencies, provide the policy perspective of the Administration.
- Provide overall direction.

In developing Update 2018, DWR will also engage other State Agencies in a State Agency Steering Committee and California Native American Tribes and organizations in a Tribal Advisory Committee (Tribal AC). The Tribal AC will help ensure Tribal perspectives on land, water, and culture is included.

Time Commitment

It is anticipated that the Policy AC will convene two or three times per year through the end of 2018. Additionally, occasional briefings and updates may be provided via conference call and webinar should the schedule demand. The schedule also includes three (3) annual Plenary Meetings which are larger gatherings of the Water Plan's broader stakeholder community.

Attendance

Members are asked to commit to maintaining the integrity of the group by attending meetings. Any member may withdraw at any time; those withdrawing will be asked to communicate the reasons for withdrawal. Those leaving are expected to maintain the integrity of the ground rules and the process. Members will contact Lewis Moeller, Project Manager for the California Water Plan at (916) 653-5666 or lewis.moeller@water.ca.gov when unable to attend a meeting.

Disclosure

During the course of the Water Plan deliberations significant policy issues will be discussed. It is recognized that Policy AC members are associated with operating organizations and groups and have an obligation to make management decisions and take actions necessary for the proper function of those organizations. A stakeholder group may engage in such decisions and actions individually, or as a member of a coalition along with other stakeholder or non-stakeholder groups. It is understood that during the course of deliberations stakeholder groups or coalitions will take public positions to protect their immediate interests. It is also understood these interests may conflict with what is or might be derived from the Water Plan deliberations at any given point in time. Public positions taken in this context will not be considered a lack of commitment to the long-term mission. Members embarking on a course that may result in conflict with immediate Water Plan deliberations are asked to advise the DWR of potential and pending activities intended as a method to keep the group informed.

Decision Making

The Water Plan Update is a consensus-seeking process. Specific items moved forward by the Policy AC as a group product will be considered by DWR. An issue without a broad degree of support will not move forward as a group product. The level of support for various items will be recorded. If there is fundamental disagreement among the Policy AC on an item, the committee will be asked to continue working on an area where more agreement is possible. It is understood that Policy AC members may not always be able to commit their agency/organization to a particular conclusion; however, members will operate and represent their organizations in good faith and contribute the best available information. Members are not required to commit to a position on any item. The Executive Sponsor will note areas of agreement and disagreement and DWR will decide on the final content of Update 2018.